

Message Text

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14

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 INT-05 GSA-01 /075 W

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R 302000Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9005

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39 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, EMIN

SUBJECT:BAUXITE: STRIKE AT REYNOLDS

REF: KINGSTON 3813

1. REPRESENTATIVES OF REYNOLDS, INCLUDING BILL REYNOLDS AND MESSRS. COLEN, HARRISON, AND FULLER, CALLED AT EMBASSY TODAY TO BRING AMBASSADOR AND EMBOFFS UP TO DATE ON CURRENT SITUATION AT REYNOLDS. PRESENT WAGE RATES AT REYNOLDS RANGE FROM J\$1.57 AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SCALE TO J\$3.01 AT THE TOP. THE UNION'S STARTING PROPOSAL WAS FOR A RANGE OF J\$10 TO J\$12. THE COMPANY HAS PROPOSED A 35 PERCENT ACROSS THE BOARD INCREASE, WHICH WOULD MEAN A RANGE OF J\$2.12 TO J\$4.06. ACCORDING TO THE REYNOLDS REPRESENTATIVES, PRESENT STRIKE TOOK PLACE OVER THE UNION'S MINIMUM DEMANDS WHICH ARE A RANGE OF J\$5.50 TO J\$7.00 (THIS WOULD MEAN A 250 PERCENT INCREASE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SCALE AND 133 PERCENT INCREASE AT THE TOP).

THESE MINIMUM DEMANDS ARE SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN EXISTING U.S. RATES. GIVEN THE DIFFERENCE IN PRODUCTIVITY BETWEEN A U.S. AND A JAMAICAN WORKER, ESTIMATED BY REYNOLDS AT ABOUT TWO TO ONE, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEMANDS COULD
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MEAN OTHER MATERIALS WOULD BECOME MORE ATTRACTIVE FROM

AN ECONOMIC STANDPOINT

2. THE U.S. COMPANIES HAVE EXTREMELY LARGE INVENTORIES AND REYNOLDS COULD TAKE A VERY LONG STRIKE. THE ALUMINA FACILITIES ARE CONTINUING TO OPERATE BECAUSE REYNOLDS HAS A LARGE STOCKPILE. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT THE EMPLOYEES AT THE ALUMINA PLANT ARE INTERESTED IN A STRIKE.

3. THE REYNOLDS REPRESENTATIVES SAID THEY HAD NO INDICATION

OF WHAT ACTION THE GOJ MIGHT TAKE TO SETTLE THE STRIKE. THEY ALSO HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY INTIMIDATION OF INTEREST ON THE PART OF THE GOJ IN CONTINUING THE NEGOTIATIONS PROVIDED BY THE HEADS OF AGREEMENT. GERARD

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Message Attributes

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